GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:50
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
VISIT OF TOURISTS TO KASHMIR
Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented inflow of domestic and foreign tourists this year;

(b) if so, the number of domestic and foreign tourists visited Kashmir during the last three years and expected this year;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any assistance from the Union Government to improve the tourism in the Valley; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the number of domestic and foreign tourists visits to Kashmir Valley during the last three years is as follows:

(Figures in lakhs)

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2002	0.25	0.03	0.28
2003	1.82	0.09	1.91
2004	3.58	0.19	3.77

During the first six months of year 2005 i.e; Jan-June 2005, 2.80 lakh domestic tourist visits and 0.08 lakh foreign tourist visits to the Kashmir Valley have been reported by the State Government, showing a growth of about 83% in domestic tourist visits and 2% in foreign tourist visits over the same period of 2004.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): It has been the endeavour of the Government to revive tourism in the State and all possible assistance is being provided for the purpose. Five projects were sanctioned for the State Government during 2004-05 and an amount of Rs.865.00 lakhs was sanctioned. During the current year 2005-06 also, 6 projects have been sanctioned for the State and an amount of Rs.798.00 lakhs has been sanctioned. Besides, a number of projects are being taken up during 2005-06 under the `J&K Reconstruction Plan`.